An electronic television programme guide

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Applicant:	MICROSOFT CORPORATION (US)	JP2006313558 (A)

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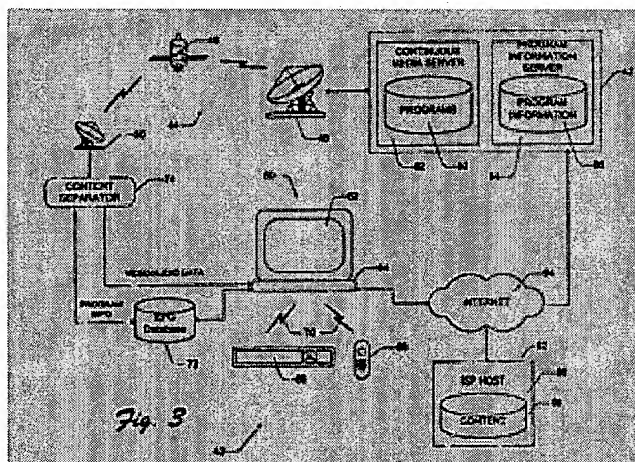
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Abstract of GB2325537

An electronic programme guide (EPG) database is interrogated to produce a list of programmes that may be of interest to a viewer. Queries may be composed by users or may be developed automatically by inspection of viewing habits or viewer profiles. Viewer profiles may be produced by interrogation of the viewer. User queries may be stored hierarchically and queries relating to different viewers may be merged. Queries may be allowed to run continually to uncover programmes of interest as they arise in the EPG. Queries may restrict selection of certain categories. A 10-key alphanumeric keypad may be used to enter query data. The EPG interprets the data from each key to mean any of the numbers or letters associated therewith and identifies all possible programmes and channels and networks. As the viewer continues to add letters or numbers, the list narrows dynamically until only a few choices remain. The EPG data may be transmitted with the TV signals and may contain links to Web pages.

Fig. 3

Data supplied from the *esp@cenet* database - Worldwide